Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 12 (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) An image processing method comprising:

providing rasterized color separated contone gray level image data (RIP Data);

changing the RIP Data in accordance with an operators adjustments; and

subjecting the changed RIP Data to a halftone process to generate halftone rendered gray level data.

14. (currently amended) A method according to claim 13 and including subjecting the changed RIP Data to first and second halftone processes and then blending the respective outputs from the first and second halftone processes to provide a blended output.

15. (currently amended) A method according claim 13 and including the step of modifying the blended output ~~of the blending operation~~ into a binary image file and subjecting the binary image file to an edge enhancement process to reduce jaggedness in the image.

16. (previously presented) A method according to claim 13 wherein changed RIP Data is recorded on a recording surface as a color separation image, and plural color separation images are recorded and eventually transferred to a receiver sheet in superposed registered relationship to form a process color image.

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17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A method ~~according to claim 17, wherein the RID data is color separated contone gray level image data and further comprising~~ of altering the appearance of an input digital image when printed comprising the steps of:

rasterizing the input digital image into rasterized image data (RID);

separating the RID into separated rasterized contone gray level image data;

altering the separated rasterized contone gray level image data in accordance with an operators adjustments; and

subjecting the altered rasterized image data to a halftone process to generate halftone rendered gray level data.

19. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~17~~ 18 and including subjecting the altered separated rasterized contone gray level image data to first and second halftone processes and then blending the respective outputs from the first and second halftone processes.

20. (previously presented) The method according claim 19 and including the step of modifying the output of the blending operation into a binary image file and subjecting the binary image file to an edge enhancement process to reduce jaggedness in the image.

21. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~17~~ 18 wherein altered separated rasterized contone gray level image data is recorded on a recording surface as a color separation image, and plural color separation images are recorded and eventually transferred to a receiver sheet in superposed registered relationship to form a process color image.

22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A method ~~according to claim 22, further comprising~~ of altering the appearance of an input digital image when printed comprising the steps of:

rasterizing the input digital image into rasterized CMYK image data (RID); separating the RID into separated CMYK image data;

altering the separated CMYK image data in accordance with an operators adjustments in order to alter the appearance of the image when printed; and,

subjecting the altered separated CMYK image data to a halftone process to generate halftone rendered gray level data.

24. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~22~~ 23 and including subjecting the altered separated CMYK image data to first and second halftone processes and then blending the respective outputs from the first and second halftone processes.

25. (previously presented) The method according claim 24 and including the step of modifying the output of the blending operation into a binary image file and subjecting the binary image file to an edge enhancement process to reduce jaggedness in the image.

26. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~22~~ 23 wherein altered separated CMYK image data is recorded on a recording surface as a color separation image, and plural color separation images are recorded and eventually transferred to a receiver sheet in superposed registered relationship to form a process color image.

27. (previously presented) An apparatus for processing a digital image comprising:

a raster image processor (RIP) to provide rasterized color separated contone gray level image data (RIP Data);

an image processor for altering the RIP Data in accordance with an operators adjustments and

subjecting the altered RIP Data to a halftone process to generate halftone rendered gray level data.

28. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the image processor subjects the altered RIP Data to first and second halftone processes and then blends the respective outputs from the first and second halftone processes to provide a blended output.

29. (currently amended) An apparatus according claim 27 wherein the image processor modifies the blended output of the blending operation into a binary image file and subjects the binary image file to an edge enhancement process to reduce jaggedness in the image.

30. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 27 wherein the altered RIP Data is recorded on a recording surface as a color separation image, and plural color separation images are recorded and eventually transferred to a receiver sheet in superposed registered relationship to form a process color image.

31. (cancelled)

32. (currently amended) An apparatus ~~according to claim 31,~~ ~~wherein the RIP Data is color separated contone gray level image data~~ for altering the appearance of an input digital image when printed comprising:

a raster image processor (RIP) to provide rasterized color separated contone gray level image data (RIP Data);

an image processor for altering the RID in accordance with an operators adjustments, ~~and~~ wherein the image processor subjects the altered RIP Data to a halftone process to generate halftone rendered gray level data.

33. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~31~~ 32 and wherein the image processor subjects the altered RIP Data to first and second halftone processes and then blends the respective outputs from the first and second halftone processes to provide a blended output .

34. (currently amended) An apparatus according claim 33 wherein the image processor modifies the blended output ~~of the blending operation~~ into a binary image file and subjects the binary image file to an edge enhancement process to reduce jaggedness in the image.

35. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~33~~ 32 wherein altered RIP Data is recorded on a recording surface as a color separation image, and plural color separation images are recorded and eventually transferred to a receiver sheet in superposed registered relationship to form a process color image.

36. (cancelled)

37. (currently amended) An apparatus ~~according to claim 36,~~ <u>for</u> <u>altering the appearance of an input digital image when printed comprising:</u>

<u>a raster image processor (RIP) to provide rasterized CMYK image data (RIP Data); and</u>

<u>an image processor for separating the RIP Data into separated CMYK image data and altering the separated CMYK image data in accordance with an operators adjustments,</u> wherein the image processor subjects the altered RIP Data to a halftone process to generate halftone rendered gray level data.

38. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~36~~ <u>37</u> and wherein the image processor subjects the separated CMYK image data to first and second halftone processes and then blends the respective outputs from the first and second halftone processes <u>to provide a blended output</u> .

39. (previously presented) An apparatus according claim 38 wherein the image processor modifies the <u>blended</u> output ~~of the blending operation~~ into a binary image file and subjects the binary image file to an edge enhancement process to reduce jaggedness in the image.